

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 28, line 11 as follows:

As for BLAST, a file compatible with a computer to be used can be obtained from the files stored in /blast/executable from ~~ncbi.nlm.nih.gov~~ the NCBI database managed by the National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health (Bethesda, MD, USA) by using an FTP server.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 28, line 14 as follows:

The details about the operation method are described in the installation and procedures packet available on the website for the National Institutes of Health (Bethesda, MD, USA) <http://genome.nhgri.nih.gov/blastall/blast-install>.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 30, line 19 as follows:

Brief ~~Explanation~~ Description of the Drawings

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 28, line 14 as follows:

Fig. 1 shows the five amino acid residues serving as the components of the active site having the phosphatase activity or the transphosphorylation activity, and their relationship in special positions as distances between C α atoms. The identified amino acids are as follows:

Lys: 115th residue of SEQ ID NO: 124;

Arg (N-terminus side): 122nd residue of SEQ ID NO: 124;

His (N-terminus side): 150th residue of SEQ ID NO: 124;

Arg (C-terminus side): 183rd residue of SEQ ID NO: 124; and

His (C-terminus side): 189th residue of SEQ ID NO: 124.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 28, line 14 as follows:

Fig. 2 shows alignment of the amino acid sequence of EB-AP (Escherichia blattae - acid phosphatase, SEQ ID NO: 2) with the amino acid sequences of the acid phosphatases derived from *Morganella morganii* (SEQ ID NO: 4), *Salmonella typhimurium* (SEQ ID NO: 6), and *Zymomonas mobilis* (SEQ ID NO: 8).

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 28, line 14 as follows:

Fig. 9 shows the result of amino acid sequence alignment of EB-AP (SEQ ID NO: 124) and a wild-type acid phosphatase derived from *Enterobacter aerogenes* (wild-type EA-AP, SEQ ID NO: 125) performed by using the program BLAST.

Please delete the substitute Sequence Listing filed on July 25, 2001.

Page 94 (Abstract), after the last line, beginning on a new page, please insert the attached substitute Sequence Listing.